## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 //066 W

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R 130746Z JAN 78 FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2682 INFO USIA WAHSDC

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJ: FURTHER REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS
CONFERENCE

- 1. A YOUNG POLISH-AMERICAN WHO IS WORKING THIS YEAR AT A PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITY PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE REACTION OF PROFESSORS AT THAT INSTITUTION TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE.
- 2. ALL THOSE WITH WHOM SHE SPOKE WERE AMAZED THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS PERMITTED TO APPEAR ON TV AND IN THE POLISH PRESS THE NEXT DAY. AS TO THE CONTENTS OF THE CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT CARTER'S REFERENCE TO NEW SOVIET WEAPONS, PARTICULARLY THE SS-20 MISSILE, CAME AS A SHOCK AND SURPRISE. FACULTY MEMBERS IN TORUN APPARENTLY HAD NO IDEA THAT SUCH WEAPONS DEVELOPMENTS WERE TAKING PLACE, NOT EVEN FROM THE GRAPEVINE. EVERYONE SAW THROUGH THE DELIBERATE MISTRANSLATION OF CARTER'S STATEMENT THAT SOME JOURNALISTS WRE NOT PERMITED TO APPEAR AT THE CONFERENCE, BUT THEY TOOK THE ATITUDE THAT IT WAS HARDLY SURPRISING DISSIDENT JOURNALISTS WERE BARRED FROM THE CONFERENCE.
- 3. THE SIGHT OF THE LEADER OF A SUPERPOWER DEFENDING HIMSELF IN PUBLIC AGAINST AGRESSIVE QUESTIONING ALSO MADE A BIG IMPACT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANY PROFESSORS CITED THIS AS AN EXAMPLE OF A TRULY FREE PRESS.

4. CARTER'S REMARKS ON RELATIVELY GREATER HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN POLAND DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE DISAPPOINTED LISTENERS, WHO SENSES THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS OBLIGATED TO SAY A FEW NICE THINGS ABOUT HIS HOSTS.

DAVIES		
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NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 jan 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WARSAW00328
Document Source: DOCUMENT OF THE PROPERTY O

**Document Unique ID: 00** Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

**Expiration:** Film Number: D780019-1334 Format: TEL

From: WARSAW

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780167/aaaacemp.tel

Line Count: 64 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: f52cfce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 28 apr 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3780081 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: FURTHER REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT\'S PRESS CONFERENCE

TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, JIMMY)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f52cfce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

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